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**STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

**Report of the
Chief Public Health Inspector**

for the year

1972



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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor E. GARNER

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor T. BISHOP

Members of the Council:

Councillor T. BARNES

Councillor A. BIBBY

Councillor J. N. BLACKLEDGE

Councillor W. DUTSON

Councillor G. HAYES

Councillor J. HEALEN

Councillor P. E. HOWARD

Councillor W. MASON

Councillor J. MCALLISTER

Councillor G. MEADOW

Councillor E. A. NAYLOR

Councillor Mrs. M. E. TURNER

County Councillor R. HART, C.ENG., M.I.M.E.

The Public Health Committee consisting of all Members of the Council is the Committee having charge of matters of Public Health within the Urban District.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor E. GARNER

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor G. MEADOW

Clerk of the Council:

G. GRAY, A.C.I.S.

Medical Officer of Health:

P. LEE, B.Sc. (Hons)., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

B. L. PARKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P. S. DAVIES, Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

Clerk:

Miss J. E. JOLLEY

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
Ashfield House,
Standish.

Telephone: Standish 422111.

June, 1973.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1972.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Department of Health and Social Security.

I wish to express my gratitude for the assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. B. L. Parker, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his unfailing support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to members of the Council my appreciation for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

P. LEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Preliminary Census 1971)	.....	.....	.....	11,159
Registrar-General's estimated mid-year (1972) home population	.....	.....	.....	11,360
Acreage of district	.....	.....	.....	3,266
Number of inhabited dwellings at end of 1972 according to rate book	.....	.....	.....	4,187
Rateable value (31-3-1972)	.....	.....	.....	£393,511
Product of penny rate (Actual 31-3-1972)	.....	.....	.....	£3,778.63

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District is pleasantly situated North of the County Borough of Wigan and adjoining it.

The Rural District of Wigan lies to the East and West and the Rural District of Chorley to the North.

Standish itself is located on the M6 motorway and is easily accessible by both north and southbound traffic.

The maximum distance between the boundaries is about 5 miles and the height of the district above sea level varies from 88 to 375 feet.

The surface waters mainly gravitate to the adjacent Douglas Valley to be taken away by the river of that name.

The geological formation is of black loamy soil having generally a sandy sub-soil and in the Eastern parts there are considerable strata of hard rock. The district is rich in coal seams at varying depths.

Although the district is typically urban much of the property is residential in character.

The principal industries in the district are food canning and bottling, manufacture of textiles, agriculture and engineering. Employment in these industries has been well maintained during the year.

All coal mines in and adjacent to the district have now been closed, consequently the effects of mining subsidence are now gradually diminishing.

For the purpose of Local Government the district is divided into five wards, each with three representatives, making a total of fifteen Councillors.

As from the 1st April ,1974, Standish along with thirteen other authorities, will form the Wigan Metropolitan District (a) within the Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester.

VITAL STATISTICS

				Local Authority Area			England and Wales (Total)		Local Authority Area	England and Wales
				Males	Females	Total				
Estimated mid-year home population				—	—	11,360	49,028,900			
Live Births	Total			92	87	179	725,405	Live Birth rates, etc. Live births per 1,000 home population (crude rate) ... Area comparability factor Local adjusted rate... .. Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births...	15.8 1.03 16.3 1.10 3	14.8 1.00 14.8 1.00 9
	Legitimate			87	86	173	662,907			
	Illegitimate			5	1	6	62,498			
Stillbirths	Total			3	—	3	8,794	Stillbirth rate Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	16	12
	Legitimate			3	—	3	7,846			
	Illegitimate			—	—	—	948			
Total live and still births	Total			95	87	182	734,199			
	Legitimate			90	86	176	670,753			
	Illegitimate			5	1	6	63,446			
Deaths of Infants								Infant mortality rates Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	28 29 —	17 17 21
under 1 year of age	Total			4	1	5	12,494			
	Legitimate			4	1	5	11,177			
	Illegitimate			—	—	—	1,317			
under 4 weeks of age								NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	22	12
Total	Total			3	1	4	8,373			
	Legitimate			3	1	4	7,503			
	Illegitimate			—	—	—	870			
Under 1 week of age								EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	11 27	10 22
Total	Total			1	1	2	7,142			
	Legitimate			1	1	2	6,365			
	Illegitimate			—	—	—	777			
Deaths—all ages				93	66	159	591,907	Death rates, etc.—all ages Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)... .. Area comparability factor Local adjusted rate... .. Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	14.0 1.13 15.8 1.31	12.1 1.0 12.1 1.0

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1972

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years						65-74	75 & over
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Leukaemia	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	F.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Diabetes Mellitus	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemias	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemias	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	F.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	F.	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M.	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	13	8
Other Forms of Heart Disease	F.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	F.	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	M.	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Influenza	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Influenza	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	F.	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	F.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Asthma	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthma	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	F.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	F.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	F.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	F.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other Accidents	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other Accidents	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total All Causes	M.	93	3	1	-	-	-	1	2	6	21	26
Total All Causes	F.	66	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	32

CANCER: Twenty-two deaths occurred in 1972—ten males and twelve females—compared with twenty-three deaths—fourteen males and nine females in 1971.

Facilities for radium treatment for Standish residents are available at the Manchester Radium Institute and at Wigan Infirmary Clinic.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service established at the Wigan and Preston Infirmaries are used for bacteriological examinations. Chemical analyses are usually undertaken by the County Analyst at Preston.

The arrangements have proved quite adequate and satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council (Health Division No. 8) as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. An ambulance station situated in Glebe Close covers the needs of Standish. The service is quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Few cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year as the following table indicates.

Food poisoning. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

General. In accordance with the provisions of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, a copy of each notification of an infectious disease, including food poisoning, has to be sent by the department to the Local Health Authority on the day of its receipt, if possible, and in any case within forty-eight hours after its receipt.

Other returns relating to the prevalence of and deaths from notifiable infectious diseases have to be sent to the Registrar-General and the County Medical Officer of Health at weekly and quarterly intervals.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1972

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS—YEARS											65 and over	Age unknown	Total deaths
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	45				
Measles (excl. rubella)	34	3	6	9	2	2	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Infective jaundice	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (resp.)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	41	3	6	9	2	2	14	1	—	—	3	—	1	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children under 16 years of age resident in Standish who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

<i>Type of prophylactic</i>							<i>Primary</i>	<i>Reinforce- ment</i>
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200	182
Whooping cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	194	4
Tetanus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200	181
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	173	199
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	141	Nil
Rubella	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis are vested in the County Council, specialist chest physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards and the general practitioners. The County Council, on direction of the Department of Health and Social Security, is responsible for both prevention and after-care of this condition, but local sanitary authorities are still empowered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to take all necessary action to prevent the spread of infection and the Medical Officer of Health still retains specific duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

Standish cases attend the Wigan Chest Clinic.

Three cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with no cases last year. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under these Acts in respect of the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Statutory Water Undertaker is the Makerfield Water Board, which, on the 2nd October, 1961, assumed responsibility for providing the district with a sufficient and wholesome supply of water.

The Council has one representative on the Makerfield Water Board.

The water supplied to Standish is zoned into the following three areas:

- (a) The Green Lane zone supplied directly with Thirlmere water. This water is chlorinated at the Green Lane works.
- (b) The Prospect zone supplied with a mixture of water from Thirlmere and Worthington via the Prospect reservoir. The Thirlmere element is chlorinated and the Worthington water is filtered and chlorinated.
- (c) The Harrock Hill reservoir zone supplied with mixed water pumped from Prospect reservoir.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses and the supply is generally plentiful.

Except that eleven complaints about turbidity and particulate matter in water were referred to the Makerfield Water Board—no action was necessary as regards more serious contamination or plumbo-solvency.

The fluoride content is 0.04 part per million.

Water Sampling. The following samples of water going into supply were taken during the year and the results are tabulated below.

Bacteriological examinations			Chemical analyses		
No.	Results		No.	Results	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
8	8	Nil	2	2	Nil

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and all domestic purposes.

Continuous monitoring of the bacteriological quality of the water supply is carried out by the Makerfield Water Board. Sixty-one samples were taken by the Board with no adverse results.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker—Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers Shops 16	Supervision over Refuse Collection
Slaughterhouses 168	and Disposal 176
Bakehouses 1	Watercourses and River Pollution 5
Fish and Chip Shops 9	Dustbin Provision 379
Ice Cream Vendors 15	Housing Act Inspections 528
Cafes and Canteens... .. 12	Caravans and Moveable Dwellings 2
Licensed Premises 66	Infectious Disease Inquiries ... 6
Other Food Premises 79	Filthy or Verminous Premises ... 12
Food Hawkers and Delivery Vehicles 54	Insect Infestations (various) ... 27
Dairies 1	Disinfection of Premises 4
Milk Distributors 6	Disinfestation of Premises... .. 27
Factories (Mechanical) 19	Interviews with Owners, etc. ... 146
Sites of Building Operations and	Re-inspection of Notices 74
Works of Engineering Construc-	Rodent Control 639
tion 13	Air Pollution 29
P.H.A. Workplaces 2	Water Supplies 7
Outworkers premises 1	Swimming Baths and Pools ... 6
Shops under Shops Act 279	Hairdressing Establishments ... 10
O.S.R.P. Act 65	Welfare—Aged Persons and Problem
Investigation of Complaints ... 80	Families 4
Inspections and Tests Drainage ... 348	Noise Abatement Act 13
School Sanitary Accommodation ... 1	Agricultural Units 26
Septic Tanks and Cesspools ... 10	Outdoor Fetes 1
Conservancy Closets 7	Civic Amenities Act 153
	Various Causes 170

Total Number of Inspections: 3,696.

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered and abated</i>
Defective refuse receptacles	379
Defective or obstructed drainage systems	175
Defective windows	53
Damp - defective and perished wall plaster	24
Defective eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	19
Defective chimney stacks and flues	17
Defective roofs	15
Defective floors	14
Abandoned or derelict vehicles	14
Defective brickwork (external walls)	13
Defective doors and frames	11
Insufficient or unsatisfactory water supplies	11
Offensive odours and accumulations	8
Defective ceilings	6
External decoration	6
Defective firegrates	5
Flooded cellars and sub-floor spaces	4
Defective or insanitary sink waste pipes	3
Keeping of animals and poultry	3
Polluted or obstructed watercourses	3
Noise nuisances	3
Defective outbuildings	2
Defective electric light fittings	2
Defective or flooded approach paths and yards	2
Smoke and grit emission	2
Obstructed eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	1
Defective or insanitary sinks	1
Dangerous boundary walls	1
Defective watercloset structures	1
Defective watercloset appliances	1
Defective stairs	1
Defective or obstructed private sewage disposal plant	1
Defects or Nuisances: Number discovered and abated	801
Number of Notices served: Informal 15. Statutory 1.	
Legal proceedings: Nil.	

The foregoing statistics indicate the attention given to improving the everyday environmental matters which are so essential to the health and well-being of the community—matters which although unspectacular in themselves cover a field far wider than is generally appreciated.

The duties of the department continue to increase due to the growth of the district and the impact of new legislation dealing with environmental matters. Because of this and the extra work imposed by Local Government Reorganisation, of necessity certain inspection work of a routine nature could not be carried out.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have nevertheless been kept under close supervision and every endeavour has been made to deal with any health problems that have arisen.

The chief sanitary requirements of the district remain the completion of the Arbour Lane sewerage scheme and the paving and drainage of unmade roads. Both these matters are being dealt with by the Council.

The work of the Public Health Department is prevention rather than cure. The department seeks to ensure that at all times and in all places all that contributes to the health and comfort of the individual is assured

DRAINAGE

The Council operates a rate-borne drain clearing service under the control of the Public Health Department.

This service ensures the expeditious clearance of obstructed drainage systems which might otherwise give rise to potentially unhealthy conditions.

It is a service which is greatly appreciated by the general public and was called for on 175 occasions.

Where as sometimes happens drainage systems are found to be defective—advice is given to owners as to the best method of remedying the faults found and work in progress is supervised.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Approximate numbers of the various types of sanitary accommodation provided in the district is as follows:—

Number of dwellings on water carriage system	.....	.....	4,186
Number of dwellings not on water carriage system	.....	.....	1
Number of privy middens (mostly on farms)	.....	.....	2
Number of pail closets (mostly on farms)	.....	.....	3
Number of waste water closets	.....	.....	2
Number of moveable dustbins	.....	.....	4,663

It is impracticable for the few remaining conservancy closets to be connected to the public sewerage system, but, as opportunities arise, every effort is made and ingenuity used, to find ways and means of conversion to the water carriage system with outfall to private sewage disposal plant.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	64	Nil

2.—Total number of dwellings owned by any local authority, existing in district at end of year 1,032

3.—Inspections of dwellings during the year:—

(i) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	190
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	264
(c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	15
(ii) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:—	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	1
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	4

4.—Houses Demolished:—

In or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families	
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	14	}	
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil		
(iii) Houses on land acquired under S.43(2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil		

Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act, 1957	3	}		
(v) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil		5	3
(vi) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil			
(vii) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders...	Nil			

5.—Unfit Houses Closed:—	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families	
(i) Under S.16(4) S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act, 1957, and S.26, Housing Act, 1961	Nil	}	Nil Nil
(ii) Under S.17(3) and S.26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		

6.—Unfit Houses Made Fit:—	Number
(i) By owner after informal action by local authority	15
(ii) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(a) By owner.....	
(b) By local authority	Nil
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil
(iv) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.24, Housing Act, 1961.....	Nil
(v) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil

7.—Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Position at end of year:		
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation—	Nil	Nil
(a) Under Section 48		
(b) Under S.17(2).....		
(c) Under S.46.....	Nil	Nil
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53	Nil	—

8.—Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders.....	Nil	Nil

9.—Housing Act, 1969—Improvement grants, etc.:—

	Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of		
	Owner Occupied	Others	Local Authority
Action during year:			
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	29	7	—
(ii) Approved by local authority	29	7	—
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	89
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	89
(v) Work completed	29	7	16
(vi) Additional separate dwellings included in (v) above	1	1	Nil
(vii) Any other action taken under the Acts, e.g., General Improvement Areas.....		Nil	

10.—Housing Acts, 1961, 1964 and 1969—Standard Grants:—

	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected	
	Owner occupied	Others
Action during year:		
(i) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to (a) full standard	12	4
(b) reduced standard.....	Nil	1
(ii) Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to (a) full standard	12	4
(b) reduced standard.....	Nil	1
(iii) Work completed	12	5
(iv) Particulars of any action taken relating to compulsory improvement of dwellings		Nil

HOUSING: Housing is one of the most important factors affecting the health of any community. The duty of maintaining an inspection of the housing conditions in the district was continued during the year. Much time was devoted to this important sphere of environmental health work which resulted in the improvement of the housing conditions of many families.

Since 1955 action to clear unfitness has so far necessitated the demolition or closing of 132 houses. The appraisal of housing conditions is a continuing process and further action will only be necessary to deal with sporadic unfitness as it arises.

Following the purchase by agreement of thirty-eight sub-standard National Coal Board houses in Moores Lane and James Square vacation and demolition of the properties is nearing completion. Re-development of the cleared site for housing purposes would bring about a desirable improvement in the present environment.

One house in multiple occupation has been let off in rooms so as to provide two units of accommodation. The premises comply with the statutory requirements and a good standard of management is applied.

A house-to-house survey has revealed that of the total stock of 3,155 private sector dwellings in the district some 290 lack the full standard amenities.

These houses are sub-standard but are not in such a state of disrepair and not so badly arranged as to be included in slum-clearance schemes. Most of these houses were built in the late nineteenth century—they are structurally sound but lack what are rightly considered today to be essential amenities—and still have a useful life probably in the region of twenty to thirty years. The residents of these dwellings are normally content to remain where they have lived for most of their lives and would welcome the improvement of their homes to give them the minimum amenities which are expected today.

Each year steady progress is made in putting new life into this type of dwelling.

Of the three types of grant available for modernising older houses the following are made use of in Standish:—

- (1) The Standard Grant of up to £300 obtainable by owners as of right. A total of 159 houses have been furnished with one or more of the standard amenities since these provisions first came into operation in 1959.
- (2) The Improvement Grant of up to £1,500 which covers more extensive improvements is paid at the discretion of the Council. A total of 285 houses have been improved to the twelve point standard since these provisions first came into operation in 1949.

It is in both national and local interest that the maximum number of houses—capable of being raised to this higher standard of fitness—comfort and convenience—should be preserved—for all houses should be furnished with these simple aids to healthy living. To halt obsolescence before it reaches the slum stage by providing some measure of financial assistance is a much better proposition than doing nothing until the only solution is demolition and a new house as a replacement.

The Council has approved a scheme prepared by consultant architects for the improvement of 465 of its total stock of 1,032 houses. At the end of the year improvement of 275 houses had been completed or included in current contracts.

At the year end there were 176 applicants for Council housing accommodation—approximately eighty-eight requiring two-bedroom—thirty-five requiring three-bedroom—eight requiring larger houses and forty-five requiring aged persons accommodation. There were also 40 applicants for higher rented accommodation. Whilst a degree of overcrowding exists it does not constitute a serious problem. Investigation into the circumstances of a number of applicants was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed. The number of applicants having an acute housing need is now not so great as it was some few years ago.

Whilst Standish attracts considerable housing development by private enterprise—there remains no small demand and preference for that substantial municipal house with the security of good management.

Rent Act, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair

No action was called for under the provisions of this Act during the year.

Housing Act, 1969

Qualification Certificates

Applications for qualification certificates have been received, as follows:—

	During 1972	Since commencement of Act
Improvement cases:		
Number of applications received	1	19
Number of Certificates of Provisional Approval issued ...	1	19
Number of Qualification Certificates issued	7	15
Standard amenities already provided:		
Number of applications for Qualification Certificates ...	3	57
Number of Qualification Certificates issued	3	12

DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated:

Ants	19
Unwholesome conditions	4
Australian spider beetles	2
Bed bugs	1
Bees	1
Cockroaches	1
Silver fish	1
Wood lice	1

Where the furniture and effects of prospective tenants of Council houses are known to be verminous—disinfestation is carried out in order to prevent infestation of the new premises.

Spraying and dusting with various insecticidal liquids and powders proved to be highly effective.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

All notified cases of certain infectious diseases are visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given concerning isolation of the case and the care to be exercised by contacts.

One room was disinfected after Tuberculosis during the year.

A standing arrangement with Hindley Urban District Council exists for the transportation and treatment of infected articles requiring steam disinfection.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicates the nature and extent of work carried out during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1972.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district ...	4,838	28
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	185	5
(c) Number of (b) infested by—rats ... mice ...	115 68	4 1
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	169	28
(e) Number of (d) infested by—rats ... mice ...	7 3	Nil Nil

Minor infestations in two sections of the sewerage system were discovered and eliminated.

A total of 639 visits was made for rodent control purposes. Fewer premises were found to be infested by rats and the incidence of mouse infestations varied only slightly from last year. Some resistance to the anti-coagulant rodenticide Warfarin was encountered in mice and use had to be made of bait based upon alphachloralose which proved to be effective. No other infestation as defined in Section 28 of the Act had to be dealt with.

The rat is a parasite on our social structure and the depredations of rodents if left to proliferate are costly and highly dangerous.

Rodent control techniques are better understood and practiced today than ever before.

Residents can help by repressing rats and mice and reporting immediately the presence of these pests.

The services of the Council's rodent operator—under the control and supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector—are available to undertake the destruction of rats and mice on land or premises within the Urban district.

No charge is made for the disinfestation of private dwelling-houses but business and agricultural premises are charged for treatments on a time and material basis as distinct from contract terms.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were systematically treated also the refuse disposal sites.

It is only by co-ordinated attention to underground and surface infestations that the rat population is kept to a minimum.

No legal proceedings were taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year.

Regular attendances were made at the South West Lancashire Advisory Committee on Pest Control and the fullest co-operative working with contiguous local authorities and other bodies exists.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public sanitary conveniences for both sexes planned and equipped on modern lines are maintained by the Council in a central and convenient position in the township.

Sanitary conveniences are also provided at the Ashfield and Coronation Parks.

The Council has made byelaws as to the conduct of persons using the conveniences.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Completion of Phase II of the sewerage scheme has eliminated pollution of rivers and streams from public sewage disposal works. Sixty-one premises are not on main drainage and sewage from these premises is disposed of by 51 septic tanks and 5 cesspools. Pollution from private sewage disposal plant is now minimal and is further reduced by the Public Health Department arranging for the cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks the cost of which is rechargeable to the respective owners.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Standish has a water carriage system serving the majority of premises in the district.

All sewage from the Urban District is now treated by Wigan Corporation at their sewage disposal works at Hoscar.

Construction of Phase II of the sewerage scheme consisting of a large pumping station at Chorley Road with rising main and gravitational outfall sewer to join the trunk sewer of Wigan Corporation at Crooke and thence to the disposal works at Hoscar was completed.

The sewerage of part of Wigan Lower Road and the provision of a sewer to the unsewered part of Wigan Road and to Hawthorn Avenue were also completed during the year enabling 41 premises served by private sewage disposal plant to be connected to main drainage for the first time.

A scheme for the enlargement of the sewers discharging to the Arbour Lane pumping station was in progress at the end of the year.

Sewer extensions for new housing purposes were also carried out.

CARAVAN SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

One site licence to use a plot of land as a site for a single caravan is in force under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The use of caravans and similar structures for permanent residence should be discouraged as such moveable structures do not constitute suitable substitutes for dwellings of traditional construction.

There are no camping sites within the Urban District.

AIR POLLUTION

General observations of the three industrial chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from industrial furnaces within the Urban District has now largely been eliminated.

The emission of smoke and fumes from the extensive burning spoilbanks at the disused Victoria and Giants Hall Collieries continued to give cause for grave concern.

Combustion in both these spoilbanks is so extensive and deep-seated—having been activated by shale extraction—that control measures have proved to be most difficult and time consuming.

Complaints from residents living in the vicinity of these spoilbanks concerning the vile atmosphere which this combustion creates are both vociferous and justified.

To have better co-operation from the respective owners of the spoilbanks would greatly ease the task of the Public Health Department in exercising its advisory and supervisory role.

With regard to the progressive elimination of domestic smoke—responsible for about one half of all atmospheric pollution—householders are advised to install approved smokeless methods of heating when replacing old and obsolete grates. The trend towards full or partial central heating in new and existing dwellings is a correct one.

With the object of promoting cleaner air, Regulation M2 of The Building Regulations, 1965, requires the installation of approved heating or cooking appliances in new buildings.

This Urban District is not included in the provisional list of “black areas” prepared by the Department of the Environment for domestic smoke-control purposes.

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district.

There are two schools with pools—one is a hydrotherapy pool with diatomaceous earth continuous filtration—the other is a swimming pool with continuous pressure sand filtration—both have automatic hypochlorite chlorination.

Samples of the pool water are regularly taken for bacteriological examination to keep a check on the efficacy of operation of the filtration and chlorination plant.

Public health control in this way is most important since the operation of these pools is usually in the hands of untrained persons.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

(1)—Shops Acts, 1950 to 1965.

The provisions of these Acts concerning working hours, intervals for meals and rest and weekly half-day holiday of young persons are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council as the Shops Acts Authority, but the Chief Public Health Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the County Council as regards these matters. Details of each shop inspection are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health and any contraventions reported are dealt with directly by the County Council.

There are 138 shops of various kinds within the Urban District in respect of which 279 inspections were made. Assistants are employed in sixty-six shops and young persons in eight of this number.

(2)—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The purpose of this Act is to make provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office, shop and certain railway premises.

The following is an abstract of information from the Annual Report made to the Department of Employment (Safety, Health and Welfare Division) in accordance with the provisions of Section 60 of the Act.

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of persons employed in such premises
Offices:	16	67
Retail Shops:	36	108
Wholesale shops, warehouses:	3	27
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens:...	8	45
Fuel storage depots:	1	1
Totals:	64	Males: 101 Females: 147
Number of general inspections carried out:		34
Number of visits of all kinds made:		65
Number of contraventions found:.....		25
Number of notices served re: contraventions:		7
Number of exemptions granted:		Nil
Number of prosecutions:		Nil
Number of accidents reported:		3

Due to the additional work imposed by local government reorganisation it was not possible for all premises to receive a general inspection, but all newly registered premises received an initial inspection during the year.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are thirteen hairdressing establishments (three for males and ten for females) within the Urban District.

Byelaws as to the cleanliness of hairdressers and barbers made under Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1967.

Enforcement of the byelaws is resulting in higher standards of cleanliness and the provision of sterilisers for hairdressing equipment in all establishments has now been accomplished.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Factories Act, 1961

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	30	19	2	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	13	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	36	32	2	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspec. (4)	by H.M. Inspec. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

The provision of sanitary conveniences on sites of building operations in accordance with Section 127 of the Act is an important matter often neglected and demands constant vigilance to avoid insanitary conditions arising.

Outwork is carried on in one premises recorded under Part VIII of the Act.

A number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are regularly inspected.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

This Act imposes upon local authorities the duty of ensuring that all agricultural units within its area where workers are employed in agriculture are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences which must be properly maintained and kept clean.

There are twenty-six agricultural units in this Urban District which are generally small in character and on which no exceptional seasonal work takes place. Inspections of these agricultural units have revealed that all have available the water or conservancy type of sanitary convenience at the farmstead sufficient to meet the needs of regular and seasonal workers.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises registered or licensed under the above Act within the Urban District.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The Noise Abatement Act recognised for the first time in history that noise can be a danger to health.

Subject to certain exceptions—noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be dealt with as a statutory nuisance.

Section 19 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1971, provides specific powers to secure the reduction of noise from the use of air-powered tools and compressors.

Three noise complaints were investigated and dealt with during the year.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are twelve public houses within the Urban District.

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and should the need arise reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation have been effected at several of the licensed premises.

A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, *inter alia*, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensees of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

The gradual introduction of the pressurised beer pump together with the use of the lined drinking glasses will do much to improve the hygiene of beer dispensing.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All food premises and all food stalls and delivery vehicles operating in the district have been inspected and assessed in comparison with The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, The Food Hygiene (Markets Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and the Byelaws for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

During the year 252 food hygiene inspections were made and except in twenty-two cases—five in respect of fixed premises and seventeen in respect of mobile food traders—all contraventions discovered were dealt with verbally on the spot.

Constant vigilance was necessary to achieve and maintain a reasonably good standard of food hygiene on food stalls and delivery vehicles but steady progress was made.

Advice on the retailing of fresh meat pies, cooked meats and fresh sausages with particular reference to avoiding the sale of stale food, stressing objections to "sale or return" systems and advocating the date coding of perishable produce, including perishable flour confectionery, is given to all traders selling these commodities.

Regular ante-mortem and 100 per cent post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered at the one licensed private slaughterhouse within the district was carried out as detailed in the following table.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 3A (4) of the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, the Council has determined that the days on which, and the hours in those days between which, animals may be slaughtered shall be Monday to Friday (inclusive) from 6.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

A total of 3,925 carcasses and organs of food animals was inspected involving 168 visits to the slaughterhouse and all inspections were carried out in accordance with the provisions of The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 to 1971.

Maximum charges as allowed by these regulations are made by the Council for meat inspection and marking services which during the year produced an income of £235.62.

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

DETAILS					Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	...	...	...	...	441	Nil	3	1,796	1,685	Nil
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	441	Nil	3	1,796	1,685	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—</i>										
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	115	Nil	2	222	137	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	...	...	...	...	26.08	Nil	66.67	12.36	8.13	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:—</i>										
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	16	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.95	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:—</i>										
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	17	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

<i>Description of food</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned</i>			
		<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Canned tomato pulp.....	Decomposition	4	15	3	12
'Ideal' sauce	Multifarious contamination...	1	7	0	13½
Cargo ginger	Multifarious contamination...		6	0	12
Shallot powder	Mouldy		5	3	16
Grapefruit concentrate.....	Mouldy		4	2	16
Ravioli	Multifarious contamination...		4	0	8
Canned lentil soup	Multifarious contamination...		3	3	7½
Gherkins in brine	Multifarious contamination...		3	1	10
Frozen foods (various)	Decomposition			1	17
Boned legs of mutton	Decomposition			1	10
Dried skimmed milk powder ...	Mouldy			1	0
Canned boiled ham	Decomposition				22

7	12	0	4
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<i>Carcases-Organs or parts condemned</i>	<i>Number condemned</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned</i>		
			<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS:—					
Head and tongue	1	Actinobacillosis		1	0
Silverside	1	Abscess			15
Brisket	1	Bruising and oedema			5
Lungs	4	Abscess		1	4
Hearts.....	1	Abscess			3
Hearts.....	1	Pericarditis.....			3
Diaphragm or skirt	30	Abscess		3	6
Abdominal organs.....	1	Abscess		1	2
Livers—whole	108	Abscess	9	2	16
Livers—part	3	Cirrhosis			15
Spleens	1	Abscess			1
Kidney with suet	7	Abscess		1	14
Kidneys	1(115)	Abscess			1
CALVES:—					
Lungs	2	(2) Pneumonia			8
SHEEP AND LAMBS:—					
Hearts.....	17	(17) Cysticercus ovis.....			8½
Livers	221	Parasitic	2	0	1
Kidneys	2(222)	Pyelonephritis			1
PIGS:—					
Heads	16	(16) Tuberculosis	1	2	22
Heads	4	Abscess		1	20
Shanks	1	Abscess			2
Loins—part	1	Septic peritonitis			10
Legs.....	1	Abscess			5
Hearts.....	61	Pericarditis.....		1	2½
Lungs	2	Tuberculosis			5
Lungs	1	Septic pleurisy			2½
Lungs with heart	31	Pleurisy and pericarditis		3	9
Plucks.....	6	Congestion		1	8
Livers	27	Parasitic		2	25
Kidneys	4(137)	Nephritis.....			2
			18	2	20½

Grand total weight: 8 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 24½ lbs.

The incidence of large abscesses in the liver usually involving adhesion to the diaphragm of intensively reared bovine animals is increasing significantly.

The canned tomato pulp is imported by a food canning firm operating in the district and damage during transit or deterioration during storage are the reasons for condemnation.

The containerisation of this commodity in bulk and the impact of the provisions of The Imported Food Regulations, 1968, whereby inspection at the port of entry is deferred to be undertaken by the inland receiving authority, has placed a greater responsibility on the Public Health Department. Manchester and Liverpool Port Health Authorities referred 467 unexamined sealed containers of food for inspection by this authority.

All condemned meat and other food is disposed of either to non-edible by-product manufacturers or by burying at the local authority's refuse disposal site under the direction and supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. All condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969.

The following information is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health circular.

Number of food premises (by type of business) in district at end of year:

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	31
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish/game/etc.)	5
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry/game/etc.)	Nil
Meat shops (butchers/purveyors of cooked and preserved meat/tripe/etc.)	9
Bakers and/or confectioners	5
Fried fish shops	6
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery/minerals/ice-cream/etc.	5
Licensed premises/clubs/canteens/restaurants/cafes/snack bars and similar catering establishments	30
Others	6
	—
TOTAL	97
	—

Number of above premises where more than one type of classified business is carried on	7
	—

Actual number of food premises	90
	—

All food premises to which Regulations 18 and 21 apply—concerning the provision of wash-hand basins and sinks—are fully fitted to comply with the legal requirements.

Number of food premises (by type) registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938

Type of Business	Number registered at 31-12-1972	Number of inspections of registered prem- ises during year
(a) Sale of ice-cream	37	
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted or pressed or pickled or pre- served meat	5	42

The provisions of Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, were not adopted by the Council and registration of premises and persons continues to be effected under Section 115 and 116 of the Act of 1938.

Food Hawkers registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Acts, 1938 and 1968.

About thirty-eight hawkers of meat or meat food products or fish or fruit or vegetables are registered with the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

Regular inspections of the vehicles and food offered or exposed for sale are made and the hawker's attention drawn to any irregularities found.

Ice-cream:—

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District. All shop retailers of ice-cream and water-ice are equipped with a modern refrigerator and sell pre-packed products of reputable quality. The only loose ice-cream sold within the area is by itinerant vendors.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and the County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following information.

A total of twenty-five samples was obtained by the County Public Health Officers in the Urban District made up of nine samples of milk and sixteen samples of other commodities.

Upon examination by the County Analyst all but four of the samples proved to be genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of the adverse samples.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Statutory Instruments Nos. 1019 and 1020 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the 29th May, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1961, from which date existing slaughterhouses in the district had to comply with hygiene and prevention of cruelty construction regulations.

There is one licensed private slaughterhouse within the Urban District where much of the meat consumed by Standish residents is produced and this has been brought up to the standard required by the regulations. It is pleasing to record that the important work of meat production thereat has operated quite satisfactorily.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958

The above Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and requires all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. The above regulations are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knacker's yards.

A licence to slaughter animals is valid for a maximum period of one year and must specify the types of animal permitted to be slaughtered and the type of stunning instrument to be used.

Nine slaughtermen are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of pet shops by local authorities. The principal purpose is to enforce reasonable treatment and accommodation of pet animals during their sale or keeping for sale.

There are no pet shops within the Urban District.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats or dogs is carried on.

The purpose of the Act is to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals and for purposes connected therewith.

There are no boarding establishments within the Urban District.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district:—

Milk producers in the district	6
including producer retailers	3
including producer wholesalers	6
Milk producers outside the district retailing in the district	1

All untreated milk is produced from tuberculin tested stock and the herds of the three producer retailers are registered under the Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959:—

Number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district	1
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	29
(c) Premises outside the district	4

The Urban District is included in Area 8 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, in which the use of special designations in relation to the retail sales of milk for human consumption is made compulsory.

Seven inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

Milk sampling:—

Since all milk producing herds within the Urban District hold Tuberculin Tested licences and all milk disposed of wholesale is destined for pasteurisation—the sampling of untreated milk is confined to that from herds where the milk is sold by retail distribution.

During the year six samples of milk were taken for biological examination. Three samples submitted to the test for tuberculosis were all negative.

Six samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test for cleanliness and all were graded as satisfactory.

Brucellosis—Six samples of untreated milk from three herds gave a negative reaction when submitted to the milk ring test for brucella infection.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection and disposal:—

The Refuse Collection Service provides employment for fifteen full-time men —this includes the foreman.

The vehicle establishment includes two “Dennis” Paxit IIA 16/24 cubic yard capacity compression loaders and one “Dennis” 10 cubic yard sideloader. Early in the year delivery was taken of one “SD” 20 cubic yard capacity fore and aft freighter with compression plate. All vehicles are powered by diesel engines.

The changing character of refuse—now lighter and bulkier—the impact of the shorter working week and the growth of the district indicate the importance of better payloads and in this respect the merits of the compression loader are self-evident.

Except for the interruptions caused by general holidays a weekly collection of refuse—from the rear of all premises—was maintained throughout the year.

It is gratifying to record that the refuse collection service operates generally without complaint—a service which intimately touches every ratepayer—and by the standard of this service the efficiency or otherwise of a local authority may sometimes be judged.

Considerable importance is attached to adequate and regular vehicle maintenance and the working of overtime is discouraged.

The Council has formally resolved not to undertake the removal of trade refuse—since with few exceptions—no charges are made for this service. Much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and the revenue so produced is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

By agreement with D. & H. Sand Supplies Limited and for a current annual rental of £300, the sandpits at Langtree Hall Farm are used for the disposal of refuse. It is anticipated that this site will provide disposal capacity for several years.

The four-wheel drive Michigan 35A tractor shovel acquired in 1965 has proved itself indispensable in achieving and maintaining adequate and regular control of the refuse disposal sites.

The refuse tips are regularly treated with bait and insecticide as a precaution against rodent and insect infestation.

The emptying of the few remaining pail closets was carried out weekly.

Dustbin provision scheme:—

The dustbin provision and ownership scheme has been in existence since 1951 and is operating satisfactorily. During the year 368 dustbins were provided out of the General Rate Fund.

In consequence of the consideration given to the Report of the Working Party on Refuse Storage and Collection, the Council decided that the "Dennis" 3¼ cubic feet polypropylene injection moulded dustbin with hinged lid, which, by way of a pilot scheme had been proved entirely satisfactory in use, henceforth be used in the operation of the dustbin provision scheme instead of the mild steel galvanised dustbin.

The disposable sack system of refuse storage is in operation at a block of twelve flats in Grove Lane.

Salvage recovery:—

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to Thames Board Mills Limited at Warrington under contract arrangements.

The salvage of waste paper has come to be regarded as a permanent and important part of the Public Cleansing Service.

The workmen are rewarded 25 per cent of all income from the sale of salvaged materials as an incentive to increase collection.

The income from the sale of salvaged materials during the calendar year was:—

Grade	Tonnes	£
Mixed papers	121.880	1,266.08
Fibreboard containers	54.500	666.20
White newspapers	18.440	230.50
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total weight	194.820	2,162.78
Rags and scrap	12.430	85.83
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand total weight	207.250	2,248.61
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Report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection:—

In accordance with Circular 34/67 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a comprehensive account of the fourteen main points of the above report was prepared, relating comments thereon to the refuse collection service applicable to this Urban District.

The report was very carefully considered by the Public Health Committee, whereupon it was noted that the arrangements for the storage and collection of refuse provided by this authority bear very favourable comparison with the recommendations of the report of the Working Party.

Nevertheless, future improvements in the service will be made in the light of these recommendations and the warning given of the need to plan well ahead in refuse storage and collection methods has not gone unheeded.

Report of the Working Party on Refuse Disposal:—

In accordance with Circular 26/71 from the Department of the Environment, a comprehensive account of the principal findings and recommendations of the Working Party was prepared, recording the present arrangements and reviewing facilities for the disposal of house and trade refuse under Section 76(1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the disposal of bulky household refuse and abandoned vehicles under Section 18 of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967.

Reference was also made to The Report of the Technical Committee on the Disposal of Solid Toxic Wastes which was published in 1970.

With the importation of large quantities of industrial waste into the Urban District for disposal at the sand workings of D. & H. Sand Supplies Limited, Langtree Hall, Standish, it is of the utmost importance that proper and adequate surveillance be maintained over this disposal site to ascertain whether or not toxic substances are being disposed of and for the enforcement of the provisions of the Deposit of Poisonous Wastes Act 1972.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967:—

The statutory obligations placed upon the Council by the provisions of Part III of the above Act have been met in the following manner:—

- (a) by the specific provision of a refuse dump at Seven Stars Sand-pits where Standish residents may take and dispose of unwanted vehicles, bulky household refuse and other rubbish, other than business refuse, free of charge at all reasonable times (Section 18).

Although this refuse dump had an estimated life of 10 years, it was filled to capacity in only 4 years and, in July, it was found necessary to close it. So far, it has not been possible to find a suitable alternative site for this purpose.

In the case of residents, who, for one reason or another, are unable to avail themselves of this facility, upon request, the removal of bulky household refuse is undertaken by the local authority free of charge.

This new service was publicised by the distribution of a circular letter to every household and business premises within the district, and, as a result, it can be said that the enormous amount of bulky refuse disposed of since August, 1968, which has to be seen to be believed, amply demonstrates that the service is known and appreciated.

Under such circumstances of indiscriminate dumping, adequate tip control presents a problem, and this task is made all the more difficult by trespassers who resort to the tip to sort over the discards of the throwaway society.

In spite of the provision of and publicity given to these facilities, it was found necessary to have to deal with the removal of fourteen derelict cars and twelve cases of unlawful dumping of waste.

It can, however, be truly said that the district is generally cleaner because of these efforts.

- (b) by entering into a formal arrangement with a local garage proprietor for the removal, storage and disposal of abandoned vehicles in accordance with the statutory charges laid down in The Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968 (Sections 20 to 22).

Anti-litter campaign :—

The Council has provided a number of litter bins which have been fixed at suitable points in the district. These are emptied at weekly intervals by the Public Cleansing Department.

Street cleansing :—

The cleansing of non-county roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

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